

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *Draft*
Environmental Assessment
Leudinghaus Road Bridge Replacement Project
Lewis County, Washington

Notice is hereby given that FEMA plans to assist the Lewis County Department of Public Works by providing partial funding for a project to replace a bridge over the Chehalis River that was washed away during a severe winter storm and flooding on December 3, 2007. The President declared the storm event a major disaster (FEMA 1734-DR-WA), making funds available for public infrastructure repairs. Federal financial assistance would be provided pursuant to the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

During the storm, the Chehalis River overflowed its banks, carrying large woody debris downstream. This debris hit and destroyed the vehicular bridge that connected River Road, on the south side of the river, to Leudinghaus Road, on the north side of the river. This bridge provided access from State Route (SR) 6 via River Road across the Chehalis River to homes, businesses, and natural and recreational resources on the north side of the river.

The project proposal is to restore vehicular access between these areas by constructing a new bridge structure over the Chehalis River. The proposed bridge design is a single-span structure with an elevated bridge deck to better accommodate debris associated with high-flow events in the river and meet state and local floodplain protection standards. Although project elements occur within the floodplain, the proposal minimize floodplain impacts to the extent possible. The higher elevation of the proposed bridge structure would require alterations to the approach roads on both sides of the river to match the elevation of the new bridge, including grade changes, realignment, and new roadway. The project includes a list of environmental conditions that address erosion and sediment control, spill prevention, stormwater pollution prevention, temporary access, footprint minimization, migratory bird protection, and inadvertent discovery of archeological resources during construction.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations found in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10. The EA evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws, including Executive Orders #11990 (Protection of Wetlands), #11988 (Floodplain Management), and #12898 (Environmental Justice). The three alternatives evaluated in the EA are: (1) No Action; (2) Alternative 1 - Proposed Action (a new bridge design at the intersection of Hatchery Road and State Road [SR 6], upstream of the original bridge site); and (3) Alternative 2 (a new bridge design at the original bridge site, with a new SR 6 intersection).

The Draft EA is available for viewing at the following locations:

Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library
400 North Market Blvd
Chehalis, WA

Lewis County Clerk's Office
345 West Main Street
Chehalis, WA

FEMA website: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/86080>

If no substantive issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA intends to finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and fund the project. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. This notice constitutes the final notice as required by Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands. The Final EA and FONSI will be available for viewing at the FEMA website noted above. Please submit your written comments to FEMA Region X Environmental Officer Mark Eberlein no later than 5 p.m. on January 17, 2014. Comments can be provided by any one of three methods:

1. Mailed: Mark Eberlein, Regional Environmental Officer, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, Washington 98021
2. Faxed: 425-487-4613
3. E-mailed: mark.eberlein@fema.dhs.gov